

# The Argus.

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## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

### Some Important Happenings in the South

#### THAT MAY PLEASE OUR READERS

An Assortment of Newsy Events That Occurred in our Midst That Cannot Fail to Interest.

Corn grows twenty feet high in San Diego valleys.

Redlands is overwhelmed with hobos and lead nickels.

The city of Ventura has a bonded indebtedness of \$16,750.

San Diego county will this year collect \$435,829.06 in taxes.

Surf-bathing is enjoyed on New Year's day at San Diego.

The citizens of Tehachapi are ready to negotiate for a water works.

The Ojai Valley and Ventura road will be completed by February 1.

Santa Paula will vote for bonds for a new \$10,000 school house January 15.

San Diego produces more honey than any other county in the United States.

San Bernardino has enrolled 1126 grammar and 212 High School scholars.

San Diego fish are shipped regularly to Chicago, City of Mexico and Honolulu.

Claremont College, Pomona, has students from Germany, Mexico and China.

The paid-up capital of the Azusa Valley Bank has been increased to \$25,000.

At Los Angeles 100 days on the rock pile is the usual sentence for a vagrant.

Santa Barbara is to have a mountain driveway from the mission to El Montecito.

Salt water is filling the wells of the eastern extension of the Los Angeles oil fields.

Twenty-two thousand feet of concrete is being laid at Ventura's new sugar factory.

Of the \$30,000 required for the new Phoenix Opera-house, the citizens have subscribed \$11,000.

Frozen oranges are now detected by means of the X-ray. The test is regarded as infallible.

The proper person could make money at Randsburg by establishing an electric light plant.

The League for Better City Government in Los Angeles is planning to secure a new city charter.

An English company of capitalists have combined to bring water from Little Lake to Randsburg.

Charles Marriner will again apply for a franchise for a marine railroad in the outer harbor at San Pedro.

The steamer Homer has made her first trip down the Coast in the P. C. S. service, succeeding the Eureka.

Santa Barbara's Fire Commissioners' report shows the fire losses for the year to be \$15,300, with \$4000 insurance.

The new Glenwood Hotel at Riverside is nearing completion. Part of the building will be used as the County Courthouse.

The Los Angeles Railway Company has paid into the city treasury \$1474 or \$20 per year for each car operated on the system.

Johannesburg is to have a Congregational church; the stage is a thing of the past, and trains are now running regularly.

There is said to be a scheme on foot for the removal of the Perris Indian school to some other location. A protest has been filed.

Bids for water works for the city of Elsinore will be received to 2 o'clock p.m., January 10. George B. Bennett, president board of trustees.

The newly-organized Board of Trade at Randsburg will send the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce a suitable exhibit of their ores.

Riverside has ninety-five arc lights and 3541 incandescent lights in daily use. This, it is stated, surpasses any city of its size on the Coast.

In order to increase the flock of ostriches at the Coronado farm, two incubators, with a capacity of twenty-eight eggs each, have been purchased.

Pasadena's Tournament of Roses was more than usually successful. Floral splendor and balmy skies gave a midsummer luster to the New Year's fête.

Mrs. Rose Hartwick Thorpe of Pacific Beach, has written a serial story for the Golden Days, a paper for young people, published at Philadelphia.

Ventura-Incorporated Colonia improvement Company. Stock \$150,000. Objects, to construct buildings, operate electric light plants, acquire water rights, etc.

Redlands has now two clergymen

named Harper—Rev. E. J. Harper of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and Rev. W. F. Harper of the Baptist Church.

Randsburg has thirty men at work on Rand and Broadway streets. The enterprising merchants are doing this voluntarily to improve the appearance of the town.

The free delivery system will be inaugurated at the Redlands postoffice, February 1. There will be three carriers, two mounted, and there will be twenty boxes.

A great deal of the Colorado Desert in this county is below sea level in some places over 250 feet below. The thermometer never registers below zero, however.

The first land ever seen by European eyes in California was Point Loma, San Diego Bay, when Cabrillo's caravels sailed up from the underworld September 28, 1542.

Santa Monica—The right-of-way for the outlet of the trunk sewer has been settled. The engineer's estimate is \$17,500. Proposals may be advertised within two weeks.

The Potencia Town Site Company, incorporated on the 23d, will improve 10,000 frontage on the Pacific Ocean, and establish a summer resort between Santa Monica and Redondo.

Santa Monica—The Santa Monica Land and Water Company hopes soon to have the new compressed air system in operation and with it expect to increase the quantity 300 or 400 per cent.

The number of deaths during December aggregated over 160, the most in the history of the city. The full returns will not be in for several days. So far 153 deaths have been officially reported.

Maggie Doherty, a poor woman who has been cooking on a lonely ranch in the Pomona foothills, has fallen heir to \$27,000, left by her uncle, Barney Doherty, who died at Boise City, Idaho, recently.

Six Whittier reform school boys who had been permitted to attend the Tournament of Roses at Pasadena, escaped from their guard at the Arcade depot here. One of them, John Hanley, was recaptured.

Some would-be secessionists in Lompoc and vicinity are agitating the subject of annexation to San Luis Obispo county, whose county seat can be reached in two hours by rail, whereas it requires a whole day of travel to arrive at Santa Barbara.

Twenty miles east of Los Angeles the mountains are covered with snow, and twenty miles west of Los Angeles there are daily baths in the Pacific. It is such items as this that make the average easterner wish he could give his property away and move to Southern California.

A certificate of increase of the bonded indebtedness of the San Gabriel Electric Company has been filed in this city for the purpose of increasing the indebtedness to \$500,000, and issue bonds therefor. Stockholders, W. D. Kerckhoff, A. C. Balch, M. Dodsworth, C. H. Allen and E. M. Weed.

It is given out semi-officially that contracts for fifty miles of new railroad, an extension of the Randsburg road to connect with the Carson and Colorado at Keeler, and for sixty miles to the borax mines below Johannesburg, have been all but let, the builders to be Ramish & Marsh.

The State Supreme Court, in an opinion delivered recently, held that the decision of an ecclesiastical tribunal of a church is supreme. This was the case of a church difficulty in Los Angeles arising from the division of the First Presbyterian Church by the Presbytery into the Central and Westminster churches.

When this road is completed, it will give the new owners a direct line to Southern California and Los Angeles, independent of the Southern Pacific. The whole thing looks like a move on the part of the Vanderbilts, which will enable them to dominate the situation when it comes to making terms with the Southern Pacific when the proper time arrives.

There is more than one way to catch a whale. A San Diego schooner has made two unsuccessful whaling voyages recently, but on the beach at Naples, in Santa Barbara county, a gray cetacean monster "overripe," as the News describes it, is being converted into oil. The creature will yield thirty barrels of oil, for which about 18 cents a gallon will be realized. It is easy enough to catch a whale if you wait until it dies and is cast upon the beach by the restless, loathing waters.

Mayor M. P. Snyder's annual message to the Los Angeles City Council contains a startling recommendation. The contract with the City Water Company, which has been of thirty years' duration expires in July. The Mayor recommends that the city take forcible possession of the company's plant and proceed to operate it, thus compelling a legal battle between the city and the water company to settle the differences between the two corporations and determine the amount to be paid for the plant. Mayor Snyder was elected on a pledge to work in behalf of municipal ownership of the water supply plant.

## PACIFIC COAST NEWS

### Important Information Gathered Around the Coast.

#### ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

A Summary of Late Events That Are Boiled Down to Suit our Busy Readers.

Jerome, Ariz., is to have a \$30,000 hotel.

The Arizona Press Association proposes a uniform newspaper page.

San Jose expects to ship over 50,000,000 pounds of prunes for the season.

F. E. Borrell of Montana is negotiating for a site for an ice manufacturing plant at San Pedro.

Yuba City is putting on frills since the completion of its olive oil mill. It has forty gallons daily capacity.

Thatcher, Ariz., is soon to have a door and sash factory and a planing mill. The machinery is in position.

Commander G. M. Book has been detached from the Mare Island navy yard and ordered to command the Monican.

The Fresno undertakers have formed a trust to control the price of burying indigents. The figure has been fixed at \$10.

A postoffice has been established at the Taquitz mines, to be known as Kenworthy, with Charles W. Lockwood as postmaster.

The whole fifteen non-partisan candidates for freeholders at San Francisco were elected by majorities of from 1500 to 3000.

The Valley road is laying track toward Bakersfield at the rate of a mile a day, and is now completed within thirty miles of that city.

At Visalia recently Superior Judge Grey held to be void \$350,000 of bonds of Alta Irrigation District, Tulare county, because of illegal assessments.

Several rafts of piling have been successfully towed from the Columbia River to San Francisco, but the rafting of sawed lumber is a new undertaking.

None but California stone will be used in the new San Francisco Post-office building. The Inyo marble, if possible to quarry it in large blocks, has the preference.

Col. Robert Williams has bought the Montezuma Hotel at Indio, and will build a \$2000 addition, to include a big dining-room, a bar, and thirty commodious bedrooms.

In the sale of \$258,000 in Territorial 5 per cent. bonds, which was consummated this week, an annual saving of over \$12,000 in interest is made to Arizona Territory. The bonds with accrued interest were sold at par.

The legality of \$275,000 of Santa Cruz municipal bonds has been attacked on the ground that they were not sold to the highest bidder and that the proceeds were not paid into the city treasury as provided by law.

The Eureka, Humboldt county, Standard, is advocating the construction of two model highways to connect Siskiyou and Trinity counties and Humboldt Bay, and attract the trade of these two mining counties to the latter.

The new board of directors of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce has organized by electing R. A. Thomas president; R. V. Dodge, vice-president; George W. Marston, second vice-president. The election of a secretary will take place at the next meeting of the board.

The Ojai suggests a tennis tournament to be held in Nordhoff some time in the spring, probably April 26. It will be a contest between North and South California, and some of the best players in the State, including C. S. Hardy of Oakland, and the Whitney brothers, have indicated their intention to be present.

Within the next few months a raft containing 5,000,000 feet of lumber will be constructed in Portland, Or., and towed to San Francisco. John Poulsen, of the firm of Inman & Poulsen, owners of a large sawmill here, designed the raft, and the firm will, in a few days, begin its construction. It will be 396 feet long, fifty-three feet wide, and will be so constructed that only a small portion will be above the surface of the water.

The last Legislature passed a stringent law for the protection of the mocking birds; and the small boy with his sling-shot and air-gun is liable to land in jail, if he doesn't look out. Arrangements have been made to read the law in all the schools of Los Angeles and Pasadena at the opening of the coming school years; and it would be well for other towns to arrange for acquainting the school children with the provisions of the law in the same way.

## MINES AND MINING.

Some remarkably rich strikes are reported from the Panamint and State range country.

A gold nugget worth \$257 was picked up in Osceola in White Pine county, Nev., last week.

The Union Pass country in Mojave county seems to be attracting considerable attention. Many prospectors are preparing to go there and others will follow soon.

About one thousand men are at work on Bonanza Creek, Alaska, a like number on El Dorado, 500 on Hunker and others. The ground is sufficiently frozen for active mining, and snafu are sinking at a lively rate.

In the stringer district near Randsburg, fifty dry washers are at work; in the Pumpkin and Goler districts as many more. These average about 12 cents per run of fifty shovels each, with forty to fifty runs per day.

The largest gold strike made in 1897 was in Montana, on Upper Sag Creek, where a ledge of rock running many miles and assaying \$100 per ton, was found. Some prospectors use plows and scrapers to uncover the vein.

The number of mills reported in this State for 1896 was 548, with 6622 stamps; for this year (1897) it is estimated the stamps equalled 8000. In 1898, owing to this revival in mining, it will be within bounds to add 20 per cent. in increased stamp capacity.

Reports from all mining sections in California indicate that more assessments have been completed for 1897, and with a less percentage of lapses, than for many previous seasons. This is indicative of the great interest being taken in all mining matters and of the restored confidence in the industry.

With 7,000,000 tons of ore in sight, the Treadwell mine on Douglass island, Alaska, is soon to have the biggest stamp mill in the world. The mill will be doubled in capacity to 300 stamps. The next largest mill is in South Africa, of 280 stamps. The Treadwell mines its ore at \$1 per ton, and produces \$125,000 per month.

The average amount of ore crushed per stamp for each twenty-four hours in California is about two tons. Should the average stamps in operation reach 7500 per day and night crushing, the result would be 15,500 tons a day, or 5,657,500 tons per year. Should this average be cut in two it would still represent a respectable amount of ore consumed and bullion produced.

The number of mineral claims located in California during 1897 will fully equal 10,000. This estimate is based on the showing of fourteen counties out of the thirty-three gold-producing counties of the State. These counties produced in 1896, \$15,500,000 in gold out of the total of \$17,181,500 officially reported for the State. The counties reporting in this section are Riverside, 1216 locations; San Bernardino, 301; San Diego, 337.

**Arctic Temperature.**

The Yukon closed November 10 for good. Since then the temperature has ranged between 10 deg. above zero and 40 deg. below. Twice already the mercury has dropped to 40 deg. below, but as a rule it has hung near 20 below. Eight inches of snow lies on the ground.

**A Gold Nugget.**

Klondike is by no means the only section where big nuggets of gold are discovered. A nugget weighing twenty-four and one half ounces and valued at \$225 was found recently near Goler, in Kern county, and has been exhibited in the window of a jewelry store in Los Angeles.

**Gold Hill District.**

The Gold Hill District, in the San Jacinto Mountains, is attracting the attention of many miners. It is reported that some rich ore has been found, and a company has been organized in Riverside with a \$300,000 capital stock, to develop several claims. The incorporators are M. W. Clay, J. A. Witherspoon, E. H. Gruwell, D. T. Jackson and L. S. Logan.

**Gold Near San Bernardino.**

A San Bernardino paper reports that within the past few weeks a rich strike of gold-bearing ore has been made within ten miles of San Bernardino. The rich strikes made in the Creek for the last twenty or twenty-five years have demonstrated that the mountains north and west of San Bernardino contain gold, and that all that is needed to locate good claims is a thorough prospecting.

**A Mining Portfolio.**

At the suggestion of W. C. Ralston, who is now in New York, Henry L. Ford of the California Miners' Association, will prepare a resolution in favor of the creation of the Cabinet office of Secretary of Mines and Mining in the President's Cabinet for adoption by the American Institute of Mining Engineers and federations of miners throughout the East. Mr. Ralston has enlisted Francis G. Newlands of Nevada and Representative Loud in the cause.

**Labrador Gold Fields.**

Representatives of a Canadian and American company, who visited Labra-

dor for the purpose of erecting saw-mills, report that that country contains deposits of gold of great richness, and is destined to become a great mining country. There exists strong evidence that gold is to be obtained in quantities equalled only by the deposits of the Klondike. In fact, it is asserted that the deposits in Labrador are on the same range as those on the Klondike. Preliminary arrangements for a gold-seeking expedition, which is to start by vessel in the spring, have already been made.

## WASHINGTON NOTES.

Charles Page Bryan will be made Minister of Turkey in the place of Dr. J. B. Angell of Michigan, who will be sent to China.

Gov. Culberson of Texas will be a candidate for the United States Senate to succeed Roger Q. Mills, whose term will expire March 3, 1899.

Comptroller Dawes was appointed William C. Oakley of Chicago as National Bank Examiner, to succeed Joseph T. Talbert, resigned.

Practically all of the cases on the United States Supreme Court docket, involving titles to private land grants in Arizona, have been reassigned to be heard on the first Monday of next March.

Discovery of dangerous counterfeits compels retirement of all \$100 silver certificates. Forward all such notes to this office for destruction. Be cautious in receiving denomination and kind mentioned.

The administration has intimated to the Greater Republic of Central America that Senor de Rodriguez, minister to Washington, is persona non grata because he opposed the acceptance of Capt. W. L. Merry as diplomatic representative of the United States to that country.

Representative Shafroth of Colorado will introduce a bill when Congress shall convene, providing that every person who shall copyright a book, besides filing two copies in the library of the United States in Washington, shall mail a copy to each State library in the forty-five States. Mr. Shafroth intends to push the bill, and believes that it will be of great advantage for the libraries of the various States.

**EASTERN NEWS ITEMS.**

Contracts have been let for a beet-sugar factory at Ogden, Utah.

Frances E. Willard, president of the W.C.T.U., is ill in Wisconsin.

A colony of Russians will settle on 100,000 acres in Trego and adjacent counties in Western Kansas.

It is reported that William J. Bryan will be offered the fusion nomination for Congress from the First Nebraska District.

Mrs. John Wanamaker, Mrs. Bellingham Booth and other philanthropists have originated a plan for the reclamation and cultivation of abandoned farms in New England.

The Commercial Travelers' National League will oppose the anti-scalpers bill before Congress, on the ground that its passage would result in a general advance in passenger fares.

There was discovered in one of the Philadelphia banks, another \$100 certificate note, making in all six of these worthless notes which have been found in that city during the past two weeks.

The Railway Age publishes a statement which shows that during 1897 only eighteen roads, with a mileage of 1537 and a capitalization of \$93,000,000 were in the hands of receivers; while in 1894 no less than seventy-four companies, with 29,340 miles of road and \$1,811,000,000 of bonds and stocks, defaulted in their obligations and were turned over to the control of the courts.

**FROM FOREIGN LANDS.**

Marquis Ito is forming a new Japanese Cabinet.

The Indian Prince Singh, famous because his father once owned the Kohinoor, married the daughter of an English earl.

A battalion of Seaforth Highlanders has been ordered to Egypt to check the advance of the French and their native allies.

Advices from Persia say that the country is on the brink of revolution. The new Shah's rule has reduced the country to poverty.

A bellicose spirit has been revived by the establishment of great Swedish depots for war munitions at Osterund, on the Norwegian frontier.

Gen. Weyler has defied the government to take proceedings against him. As he is a Senator, a special vote is necessary to deprive him of immunity from prosecution, and the army appears to side with Weyler in his attacks on the government.

The Rothschilds of Paris and Vienna, in conjunction with the Russian petroleum refiners of Baku, are financing a company, which proposes to supply Great Britain with high flash Russian oil of 103 degrees, to compete with the Standard Oil Company.